

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/699,806

Examiner

Doug Hutton

Applicant(s)

TOLPIN, DAVID

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's Response filed on 5 July 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 and 6-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 20050705
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



Doug Hutton
Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph P. Mehrle on 25 July 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of electronically rendering data on a computer readable medium, comprising:

receiving one or more text objects and floating objects according to an input data format for an input page of media;

generating an output page for the input page of the media into one or more textual areas for housing the text objects and into floating areas for housing the floating objects, wherein the one or more textual areas are derived by subtracting the floating areas from the one or more textual areas within the output page;

outputting and converting and streaming the floating objects into the floating areas within the output page according to an output data format, wherein the input data format is different from the output data format;

outputting and streaming the text objects into the textual areas adjacent to the floating areas and before the floating objects according to the output data format within the output page.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

linking the textual areas creating a linked list of textual areas; and
sequentially inserting the text objects into the linked list starting at a head of the list.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

linking the floating areas creating a linked list of floating areas; and
sequentially inserting the floating objects into the linked list starting at a head of the list.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the floating areas and the textual areas are generated by forming geometric rectangles.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

displaying the outputted floating areas and textual areas within a viewer.

7. (Currently Amended) A system tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium for electronically rendering data on a computer readable medium comprising:

one or more text objects;

one or more floating objects; and

a set of executable instructions operable to create and output data by dividing from input data a set of textual areas and a set of floating areas according to an input data format, wherein the floating areas are subtracted from the input data to acquire the textual areas, and wherein the instructions are operable to populate the textual areas by streaming the text objects into the textual areas and to populate the floating areas by streaming the floating objects into the floating areas, and wherein locations for outputting the textual and floating areas are defined by an output data format and the input data format is different from the output data format, and wherein the textual areas and the floating areas combine to form a page [[or]] of output media.

8. (original) The system of claim 7, further comprising:

a linking set of executable instructions operable to form a text linked list from the textual areas and a floating linked list from the floating areas.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising:

an inserting set of executable instructions operable to insert the text objects sequentially into the text linked list beginning at a text head of the text linked list and operable to insert the floating objects sequentially into the floating linked list beginning at a floating head of the floating linked list.

10. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the set of executable instructions segments the output data by forming textual geometric rectangles around a space on the output data not occupied by the floating objects and forming floating geometric rectangles around the floating objects, the textual geometric rectangles representing the textual areas and the floating geometric rectangles representing the floating areas.

11. (Original) The system of claim 7, further comprising:

a rendering set of executable instructions operable to define how the output data may be displayed using at least one of a browser, a viewer, a mobile communications device, and a printer.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the defining is done by tagging the text objects and the floating objects with a markup language.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the markup language is at least one of extended markup language, extended style sheets language, and portable document format.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of electronically providing for a footnote body on a page, comprising:

 receiving one or more page objects including reference objects and body objects according to an input data format[.];

 generating a body area located at the bottom of a page to house the body objects according to an output data format, and wherein the input data format is different from the output data format;

 generating a reference area located above the body area to house the reference objects according to the output data format;

 forming a reference geometric rectangle representing the reference area and a body geometric rectangle representing the body area according to the output data format; and

 automatically expanding an area of the body geometric rectangle to accommodate an additional body object while decreasing a second area of the reference area maintaining an overall area associated with the page.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

displaying the reference geometric rectangle area and the body geometric rectangle area in a browser.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
 delivering the page including the reference geometric rectangle area and the body geometric rectangle area to at least one of a browser and a printer in a markup language defining the page.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the markup language is at least one of extended markup language, extended style sheets language, and portable document format.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the delivering the page occurs as reference objects and body objects are piped to a set of executable instructions operable to insert the markup language representing a displayed page.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
 associating automatically a reference counter to the reference object.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the reference counter is automatically incremented with each new reference object.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 7:

The closest prior art is Ferrel (US 5,860,073) and the admitted prior art (Admission).

Ferrel discloses the use of style sheets in an electronic publishing system. The style sheets define formatting information for online documents. The formatting information applies to both text objects and non-text objects and includes information concerning the locations, fonts, spacing and sizes of the objects within the documents.

Admission discloses online documents in a variety of formats, including HTML, PDF, SGML, XML, XSL and WML. Admission also discloses translation software for converting one data format into another data format, including batch programming utilities which are used to better determine how a document layout is to appear when being converted from one format to another format.

However, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest a method of electronically displaying a document comprising text objects and non-text objects ("floating objects") of an input data format, wherein the method:

- generates an output page into textual areas and floating areas;
- derives the textual areas *by subtracting the floating areas from the output page*;
- *converts* and streams the floating objects into the floating areas according to an output data format; and

- streams the text objects into the textual areas according to an output data format, *wherein the input data format is different from the output data format.*

Accordingly, Claims 1 and 7 are allowable.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 8-13:

Claims 2-4, 6 and 8-13 are dependent upon Claims 1 and 7 and are thus allowable.

Claim 14:

The closest prior art is Ferrel (US 5,860,073) and the admitted prior art (Admission).

Ferrel discloses the use of style sheets in an electronic publishing system. The style sheets define formatting information for online documents. The formatting information applies to both text objects and non-text objects and includes information concerning the locations, fonts, spacing and sizes of the objects within the documents. Ferrel also discloses enabling a user to amend the style sheet using an editor.

Admission discloses online documents in a variety of formats, including HTML, PDF, SGML, XML, XSL and WML. Admission also discloses translation software for converting one data format into another data format, including batch programming utilities which are used to better determine how a document layout is to appear when being converted from one format to another format.

However, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest a method of electronically providing for a footnote on a document comprising text ("reference objects") and footnotes ("body objects") of an input data format, wherein the method:

- generates a page according to an output data format, wherein the page has a footnote area ("body area") to house the footnotes at the bottom of the page and a textual area ("reference area") to house the text above the footnote area;
- forming a textual area rectangle ("reference geometric rectangle") representing the textual area and a footnote area rectangle ("body geometric rectangle") representing the footnote area; and
- *automatically* expanding the footnote area rectangle and decreasing the textual area rectangle to accommodate an additional footnote,

wherein the input data format is different from the output data format.

Accordingly, Claim 14 is allowable.

Claims 15-20:

Claims 15-20 are dependent upon Claim 14 and are thus allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doug Hutton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4137. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

WDH
July 25, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hutton', with a stylized, looped flourish at the end.

**DOUG HUTTON
PATENT EXAMINER
TECH CENTER 2100**